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School Committee Minutes 03/28/2013

Approved by the Arlington School Committee April 25, 2013

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

*In accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General laws, Chapter 30A,
Section 20, notice is hereby given for the following meeting of the:*

*Arlington School Committee
Regular School Committee Meeting
Thursday, March 28, 2013
6:30 p.m.*

*Arlington High School
School Committee Room – Sixth Floor
869 Massachusetts Avenue
Arlington, MA 02476*

Present: Dr. Kirsi Allison-Ampe, Chair, Mr. Judson Pierce, Vice Chair, Ms. Leba Heigham, Secretary, Mr. Jeff Thielman, Ms. Cindy Starks, Mr. William Hayner and Mr. Paul Schlichtman.

Dr. Kathleen Bodie, Superintendent, Dr. Laura Chesson, Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Diane Johnson, Chief Financial Officer, Mr. Robert Spiegel, Human Resource Officer, Ms. Linda Hanson, AEA President, Erik Lee, Student Representative, and Ms. Karen Fitzgerald, Administrative Assistant.

*Mr. Thielman arrived at 6:50 p.m.
Ms. Johnson exited the meeting at 8:30 p.m.
Mr. Spiegel exited 8:54 and returned 8:58 p.m.
Dr. Chesson exited 8:55 and returned 8:58 p.m.*

Opening Remarks

Dr. Allison-Ampe thanked each of the School Committee members for all they did throughout the school year and provided quotes from Henry Ford.

Public Participation

None

Approval of Trip to Beijing, 2013-2014 school year

Ms. Catherine Ritz, Director of World Language presented the School Committee with a proposal for student to attend a school trip to Beijing, April 17-27, 2014 for 10 days, with 2 days missing from school, with 2 chaperones and no more than 30 students and no less than 10, opened to high school students only. All students will stay with their host family for one week and will travel over April vacation.

Ms. Heigham moved to vote to approve Beijing-Arlington Exchange Proposal, from April 17-27, 2014, seconded by Mr. Pierce.
Voted: 6-0

Monthly Financial Update

Ms. Johnson presented the Monthly Financial reports. The committee asked a few questions on building rentals, and wanted to remind Ms. Johnson to follow the Budget Subcommittee's priority list for any surplus money to be used on Curriculum. Mr. Pierce asked Ms. Johnson to assess the way she prepared the budget this year.

FY 2014 Budget Presentation to Finance Committee Update

Dr. Bodie said she present the FY 14 Budget to the Finance Committee and included a copy of the slide show presentation to the full School Committee members. The concern the Finance Committee had been the growth of Special Education costs. The School Committee members had asked if Ms. Johnson could change the wording on one of the slides from Destructive to a more positive word change and bring that

forward to Town Meeting.

Update on Thompson Rebuild

Dr. Bodie said that Thompson School remains to be on schedule and will meet again with the Thompson Rebuild team next week. She informed the School Committee that in late April or early May the committee would be able to visit the Thompson School to do a walk through.

Arlington Police, AYCC Partnership, Diversion Program F. Ryan, E. Digby, C. Leger

Mr. Hayner tabled the Arlington Police, AYCC Partnership, Diversion Program agenda item, seconded by Mr. Pierce.

Voted: 7-0

Superintendent Report

Dr. Bodie informed the School Committee members that the last day of school will be Friday, June 28. Mr. Hayner pointed out that the nonscheduled school days had affected the late end date and suggested to the administration to look at the school calendar once again and consider not including non-school days. Dr. Bodie said the parent survey Kindergarten End-Of-The-Year responses showed that parents wanted to keep their children in school until Friday, June 28 even though two days would be spent with a substitute teacher so Tools of the Mind Training can be scheduled. Mr. Pierce suggested to Dr. Bodie that we offer parent volunteers on the two days of training for kindergarten students. Dr. Bodie announced that Arlington students once again received the College Board AP Achievement Award, and Dr. Chesson said we received a Grant on STEM which is funded by GOOGLE, and she was happy to report the Robotics team did well this year and ended up in the State Semi-Finals.

Arlington Police, AYCC Partnership, Diversion Program

Ms. Starks moved to take off the table the Arlington Police, AYCC Partnership, Diversion Program agenda item, seconded by Ms. Heigham.

Voted: 7-0

Dr. Bodie announced Ms. Ellen Digby's retirement at the end of June, and welcomed Principal, Ms. Villano, Chief of Police, Fred Ryan, and Director of Arlington Youth Health and Safety Coalition, Ms. Leger to the meeting. Ms. Leger provided the history of the Arlington Youth Counseling Center Coalition and Chief Ryan said the mission was to engage, inform and empower our community to prevent and reduce substance abuse and other risk behaviors that affect Arlington youth, and said the coalition was started in 2007 after the suicide of one of our students.

Dr. Bodie is proposing to combine the role of Attendance Officer, Court & Home Liaison and Diversion Coordinator and make it a year round position. Dr. Bodie said she values the partnership with Arlington Police and AYCC. Mr. Spiegel presented the job description of Attendance Officer, Court & Home Liaison and Diversion Coordinator for approval.

Mr. Thielman moved to approve the position of Town wide Attendance Officer, Court & Home Liaison and Diversion Coordinator, seconded by Mr. Hayner.

Voted: 7-0

Dr. Bodie and the School Committee agreed with Mr. Thielman's suggestion to vote the position now of the Attendance Officer, and then evaluate it in the fall to see if additional resources are needed or not.

Superintendent Report Continued

Dr. Bodie asked the School Committee members for clarity on how the Communication Survey should be worded and asked if it should be directed to school parents or the entire community. Ms. Heigham suggested that the Community Relations Subcommittee meet after April vacation to provide feedback on setting up the survey. Dr. Bodie received a letter on the new Mill Pond Park and congratulated all whom was involved with the Trivia Bee. Dr. Bodie said central Kindergarten registration was complete and thanked Ms. Leilanie D'Agostino, Mr. Adam Kurowski, secretarial and nursing staff. Dr. Bodie would provide the School Committee with the final cost of central registration. Dr. Bodie said that Thompson After School program will model the Hardy After School program and would start up this fall. The Superintendent Evaluation Pilot was discussed among Dr. Bodie and the School Committee members and it was decided to have a subcommittee meeting where all members could attend. It was suggested to set up a retreat and provide a workshop or two on the pilot evaluation.

Subcommittee & Liaison Reports

Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment & Accountability

Mr. Schlichtman reported out from the last CIA & Accountability Subcommittee meeting and acknowledged that the committee had discussed setting up a Superintendent Evaluation Subcommittee, but then after further discussion decided a workshop for the entire committee to set up the procedures to implement the pilot evaluation for the Superintendent would be best. This workshop would be similar to the governance project. Mr. Schlichtman then made the following motion

Mr. Schlichtman moved to vote to recommend a professional development retreat for the purpose of working with the superintendent to pilot the new evaluator tool, seconded by Ms. Starks.

Voted: 6-0-1, Dr. Allison-Ampe abstained

Policies & Procedures, J. Pierce had nothing to report from the subcommittee, but wanted to thank Dr. Allison-Ampe for all her work as School Committee Chair for the past year.

Budget, C. Starks reported the Finance Committee voted 14-1 and passed the School FY 14 Budget and thanked Dr. Allison-Ampe for her leadership this past year.

Community Relations, L. Heigham, had nothing to report from the subcommittee, but thanked Dr. Allison-Ampe for her leadership.

Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment & Accountability

Mr. Thielman echoed all members' comments and offered his appreciation to Dr. Allison-Ampe as Chair.

Facilities, Mr. Hayner thanked Dr. Allison-Ampe too.

Legal Services Review, Dr. Allison-Ampe appreciated all the accolades from the full committee and said the Legal Services Subcommittee had made progress reviewing legal items. She suggested to the new chair to continue the Legal Services Review subcommittee team next year.

Chair, Dr. Allison-Ampe informed the committee that MASC Day on the Hill had been rescheduled to a date in May, 2014 instead of late April. Dr. Ampe informed them that other communities are sharing Arlington School Committee's letter which we sent on gun control to the President, State and U.S lawmaking members. Dr. Allison-Ampe also said that the committee needed to vote to hold the annual Organizational Meeting.

Ms. Heigham moved to vote to hold a Special School Committee Meeting, Organizational Meeting, Thursday, April 11, 2013 at 6:00 p.m., seconded by Ms. Starks.

Voted: 7-0.

Consent Agenda

Ms. Heigham moved to approved Consent Agenda, where all items listed with an asterisk (*) are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a member of the committee so request, in which event the item will be considered in its normal sequence: *Approval of Warrant # 13113 Dated, March 14, 2013, Total Warrant Amount \$563,416.61, Minutes for Approval : November, 15, 2012 and February 28, 2013, seconded by Ms. Starks.

Mr. Pierce amended the motion to pull February 28, 2012 and pull November, 15, 2012, seconded by Ms. Starks.

The Committee voted the motion as amended to approve only the Warrant.

Voted: 7-0

Mr. Thielman moved Minutes for Approval: February 28, 2013, seconded by Ms. Starks.

Voted: 6-0-2, Ms. Heigham and Mr. Pierce abstained

Mr. Thielman moved Minutes for Approval: November, 15, 2012, seconded by Ms. Heigham.

Ms. Heigham moved to amend the minutes as presented.

Voted: 6-0-1, Mr. Hayner abstained

Secretary's Report

Ms. Heigham reported out on ASC Secretary's Report, March 28, 2013.

● Letters:

- Copy of letter from Laurie Welch Storch, Principal Fulton Avenue School #8, dated February 2013
- Letter from Elizabeth Warren, United States Senator, dated February 13, 2013
- "Arlington Public Schools Announces High School Principal" from Kathleen Bodie, dated February 25, 2013
- Copy of letter to Diane Johnson, Chief Financial Officer of Arlington Public Schools, from Ms. Janice A. Bakey, Clerk of The Martin Luther King, Jr., Birthday Observance Committee, dated February 25, 2013
- Letter regarding "Request for Presentation on Common Assessments," from Laura Chesson, Assistant Superintendent Arlington Public Schools, dated February 26, 2013
- Copy of letter to Marilyn Petitto Devaney from Rosario Cascio, President of The Pirandello Lyceum, dated March 1, 2013
- Copy of memorandum regarding "Election of School Committee Officers," to Karen Fitzgerald from Kirsy Allison-Ampe, M.D., dated March 4, 2013
- Copy of letter to Ms. Janice A. Bakey, Clerk of The Martin Luther King, Jr., Birthday Observance Committee, from Kathleen Bodie, Ed.D, Superintendent of Schools, dated March 5, 2013
- Letter from Mary Jo Rosetti, President Massachusetts Association of School Committees, dated March 19, 2013
- Copy of brochure for "Color Collision" at Clark Gallery from April 9 – May 11, 2013

● Emails:

- “Winter Sports Update” from Mary Villano, dated February 23, 2013
- “Assistant coach of the year” from Robert Bartholomew, dated February 25, 2013
- “Lions Club Speech Contest – Arlington takes it!” from Lauren Schultz, dated February 25, 2013
- “Congratulations to Stacy and Welcome to Terri,” from William McCarthy, Assistant Principal Arlington High School, dated February 26, 2013
- “METCO Lobby Day – REMINDER” from Kathleen Bodie, dated March 2, 2013
- “National History Day regional competition results,” from Kerry Dunne, dated March 4, 2013
- “BDAA – Election of School Committee Officers,” from Bill Hayner, dated March 5, 2013
- “my willingness to become Chair,” from Judson Pierce, dated March 6, 2013
- “School Committee communication,” from Kathleen Lockyer, Interim Director of Special Education Arlington Public Schools, dated March 14, 2013
- “Exciting News!” from Ruth Dunn, APS Daycare, dated March 14, 2013
- “Proudigious achievement” from Dennis Geller, Ph.D. Mathematics and Computer Science, dated March 15, 2013
- “Invitation to Town event with Jim Wallis,” from Brian Emmet, Pastor Covenant Church Arlington, dated March 26, 2013
- Other Documents:
 - “Final HIPAA Regulations Require Action by Covered Entities and Business Associates,” Labor & Employment Alert from Murphy Hesse Toomey & Lehane LLP, dated February 2013
 - “Massachusetts’ Department of Education Issues Guidance on Gender Identity Law,” Education Alert from Murphy Hesse Toomey & Lehane LLP, dated February 2013
 - 2013 Annual Town Meeting Articles – Selectmen Hearings
 - Packet containing the following from the Massachusetts Association of School Committees, Inc., dated March 1, 2013
 - “Official Notice of the 2013 Delegate Assembly,”
 - “A Nomination Form for Election,”
 - “Resolutions Form,”
 - “Nomination Forms for Life Membership, Lifetime Achievement Recognition, and the 2013 All-State School Committee,” and
 - “MASC Committees.”
 - “Ponder Report,” Arlington, Massachusetts, March 2013 Issue
 - Arlington Community Education – “Summer Fun! 2013” brochure
 - Arlington Community Education – “Spring 2013” brochure
 - Arlington Community Education – “KidZone Spring 2013” brochure
 - “The Arlington Public School Visual Art Department Announcement” 2013
 - “AEF Trivia Bee” program, dated March 24, 2013

Executive Session

Mr. Schlichtman moved to enter into Executive Session at 9:30 p.m. to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with union and/or nonunion personnel or contract negotiations with union and/or nonunion in which if held in an open meeting may have a detrimental effect, and to conduct strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation, in which if held in an open meeting may have a detrimental effect, Collective bargaining may also be conducted and to hear an update on Superintendent Contract Negotiations, regarding update on Kathleen Bodie, Ed. D, Superintendent’s Contract, and exit only for adjournment, seconded by Mr. Pierce.

Roll Call: unanimous

Voted: 7-0

Adjourn

Mr. Pierce moved to exit out of Executive Session at 10:09 and to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Starks.

Roll Call: unanimous

Voted: 7-0

*Respectfully submitted by
Karen M. Fitzgerald
Administrative Assistant
Arlington School Committee*